

BULLET BACKGROUND PAPER
ON
INTERNATIONAL OFFICER SCHOOL (IOS) FIELD STUDIES PROGRAM (FSP)
TRANSFORMATION PLAN

PURPOSE

Provide information on the IOS FSP Transformation Plan

DISCUSSION

- AU/IA Program Assessment: AU/IA conducted an FSP assessment in Nov 08. Assessment identified the following opportunities for program improvements:
 - FSP did not make full use of the total days authorized for the Washington DC trip as defined in AFI 16-105 in all cases, even though sufficient FSP funding was available
 - Existing venues visited did not adequately address key program objectives of:
 - US commitment to internationally recognized principles of human rights
 - US contributions to international peace & security
 - US democratic ideals & institutions, specifically in the areas of federal government institutions and political processes
 - FSP objectives were not fully integrated into the IOS PME Preparatory Course curricula, thus missing opportunities to provide International Military Students (IMS) with a fuller understanding of US society, institutions, & ideals
 - The AWC Washington DC FSP trip was executed during the AWC course disrupting the AWC schedule and missing the opportunity to instill key FSP concepts earlier in the IMS PME experience
- FSP Transformation Plan: as a result of the assessment, AU/IA developed a four-phase, FSP, transformation plan designed to improve overall program quality while simultaneously generating cost savings:
 - Phase I – Fully integrate FSP objectives into all PME Preparatory Course curricula:
 - Move the AWC Washington DC FSP trip execution from within the AWC PME program to the AWC Preparatory Course curriculum

- Phase II – Increase academic rigor associated with venue selection and trip execution:
 - Reduce “tourist venues” & increase access to venues not generally available to the public, i.e. senior government officials, academia & think tanks, special interest groups, DoS, and other US government institutions
- Phase III – Expand the AWC Preparatory Course DC FSP trip to include significant venues in NYC available to other senior PME colleges:
 - Seek a waiver to AFI 16-105 FSP distance limits for trips other than to Washington DC to enable AWC IMS to visit significant institutions in New York City visited by Sister Service and Joint senior PME colleges, i.e. the United Nations, the US Mission to the United Nations, the Council on Foreign Relations, the International League for Human Rights, Ellis Island, etc
- Phase IV – Develop local policies and procedures to institutionalize Phase I – III, include education on FSP objectives in faculty development, develop a more robust program assessment methodology and introduce continuous process improvements to the program
- All four phases of the FSP Transformation Plan were completed as of Jul 11. The inclusion of NYC venues into the AWC FSP trip in Jul 11 culminated 2 years of work to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the IOS FSP.

SUMMARY

The FSP Transformation Plan was completed in Jul 11 and changes were a result of identified program improvements. FSP is now fully integrated into preparatory course curricula and venues are less “tourist” centric. Trips to NYC were identified as a significant venue and are now approved and incorporated.